

Pulman's Weekly News & View from Axminster



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Tuesday, December 25 2012



Local stretch of national cycle and walkway opens

A £390,000 off-road walk and cycleway has opened in Axminster.

The new stretch is part of the Stop Line Way route and runs from Cloakham in Axminster to Weycroft.

It opened on Friday, December 21st and links to on-road sections at either end.

The Stop Line Way is part of the National Cycle Network, Route 33, and when complete, the 70-mile trail will run from Bristol Channel to Lyme Bay, passing through Devon, Somerset, and Dorset.

The Stop Line Way is being funded and built by a partnership of local authorities in the three counties, with the support of sustainable transport charity Sustrans.

Councillor Stuart Hughes, Devon

By Anders Larsson
anders@tindlenews.co.uk

County Council Cabinet member for Highways and Transportation, said: "There is still a way to go before The Stop Line Way is complete, but it is really taking shape and this is another vital off-road link.

"This trail will eventually benefit a number of communities in East Devon providing people with a safer route between towns and villages.

"It will also be an important asset for the local economy, attracting locals and visitors to explore our market and coastal

towns on foot or by bike."

Axminster county councillor Andrew Moulding was equally enthusiastic and said: "This is another important piece in the jigsaw as far as the completion of the Stop Line Way is concerned.

"I'm sure this section will be much appreciated by pedestrians and cyclists alike."

The 1,000-metre section was constructed over 13 weeks by contractor Aggregate Industries Ltd.

Previously completed sections of the trail are Trafalgar Way in December 2009 and Alder Carr under the A35 into Kilmington parish in September 2011.

Land negotiations are currently ongoing on the next planned length from

Seaton to Colyford, which received planning consent in September 2011.

In Devon, the route stretches from Seaton Promenade to the county boundary and is a largely traffic-free footway and cycleway.

The proposed route closely follows, and is named after, the Second World War defences built following the evacuation of the Allies from Dunkirk as the coast of Devon and Cornwall was considered too long to defend.

Many of the concrete pillboxes and anti-tank gun emplacements remain along the line and can be seen from parts of the cycle route.

For more information, visit www.devon.gov.uk/stoplineway

Local hospitals preparing for a rise in admissions

COMMUNITY hospitals in Axminster, Honiton, Ottery, Seaton and Sidmouth are all putting measures in place to be prepared for what could become a testing winter.

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust, which manages the hospitals, is expecting a higher demand for its services and an increase in hospital admissions during the winter.

To cope, the trust has announced a raft of measures including:

- Extra beds at times of peak demand
- Increased ward rounds to assist with prompt discharge
- Extra rapid response and community staff to support people in their own homes, avoid admissions and support discharges from hospital

The trust also staged an emergency planning exercise, dubbed Winter Wonderland, at the end of November

to test its resilience and how it would prioritise services in the event of severe weather.

Kate Lyons, the trust's director of operations, said: "The colder weather at this time of year always brings an increase in health problems, including respiratory illness, flu, norovirus and injuries caused by falls or slips.

"We have robust plans in place to cope with the extra pressure this puts on our acute, community and specialist services, and to deal with severe weather if it comes.

"Our priorities are to ensure critical services operate as normal in our hospitals and to identify and care for our most vulnerable patients, with the aim of avoiding unnecessary admission to hospital where possible.

"Our community nursing teams have been visiting vulnerable patients at home to ensure they are prepared."



■ CHRISTMAS BONUS: Aynsley Jones of Canned Sunshine (middle) takes delivery of the cheque from Terry Trott and Vanessa Webb

AXMINSTER'S food bank for low income households and the elderly - is £500 better off thanks to an in-house draw at Scott Rowe Solicitors.

The company held the festive draw at its branches in Axminster, Chard and Lyme Regis and Canned Sunshine coordinator Aynsley Jones visited Scott Rowe's Axminster branch to be pre-

sented with a cheque. She was very grateful to everyone who helped raise the amount and said: "It's going to be fantastic. We can do a lot with that."

Canned Sunshine was set up by The Awareness Centre, and more information about receiving help, sponsoring the project or volunteering is available from Aynsley or Jools on 01297 32331.

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Accounts
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Dorset, Devon and Somerset
Series of Newspapers Limited
Unit 3, St Michael's Business Centre,
Church Street, Lyme Regis,
Dorset DT7 3DB

Telephone 01297 446057
01297 631120

Email
pulmans@tindlenews.co.uk
edit@pemedial.co.uk

Websites
axminster-today.co.uk
viewfromonline.co.uk

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View 2

The ultimate leisure guide for East Devon

❑ REELIN' THEM IN

Reel Big Fish return to Exeter's Lemon Grove in February

❑ AT A SNAIL'S PACE

Exeter's Northcott Theatre bring Tall Stories' *Snail and The Whale* to the stage

❑ LISTINGS

Diary Dates - Our weekly round-up of events in the area

PAGES 11 & 12



PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



COLYTON: University student Natalie Callaghan is planning to climb Mount Kilimanjaro to raise money for the Meningitis Foundation in June next year., raising £2,650 in the process.



SEATON: Leo Potter, aged seven, a member of the Seaton Success For Life Group, has been awarded his black belt, one of the youngest in the area to do so.



BEER: Father Christmas has been everywhere in Pulman's Country this week, and was given the honour of turning on the Christmas lights in Beer at the Mariners Hall.



AXMINSTER: Duncan Colvin and Mervyn Symes are the new Chamber of Commerce skittles champs, having won the trophy at the traders' social evening.

Quote of the week...

“ We have robust plans in place to cope with the extra pressure this puts on our acute, community and specialist services, and to deal with severe weather if it comes. Our priorities are to ensure critical services operate as normal in our hospitals and to identify and care for our most vulnerable patients, with the aim of avoiding unnecessary admission to hospital where possible.

Kate Lyons, director of operations for the North Devon Healthcare Trust on local hospitals preparing for a rise in admissions.

IN THIS WEEK'S PULMAN'S VIEW

Sport

Karting success

THE 2012 season at the Dunkswell Kart Club provided some of the closest and most competitive racing in the club's history with driving standards also improving throughout the year.

Looking back over the year, 931 drivers competed at the South West's premier circuit with numbers peaking at 121 for the July round.

If any circuit is bucking the national trend in entries, Dunkswell is at the forefront of the revival - a flowing, super smooth track with close and competitive racing aligned with a friendly atmosphere has attracted drivers from all over the country.

The NKRA chose the circuit to host the prestigious Formula Blue championship and a tie up with Llandow Kart Club with the Dragon Challenge saw most of the silverware crossing the bridge back to the West Country!

Interestingly, weather wise, despite the tracks reputation, the dry weather out qualified the wet by 6 to 3 although when it rained it was biblical!

See page 32

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EAST DEVON

Testing time for hospitals

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AXMINSTER

Off-road walkway

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From the editor's chair Be happy, be content...



ALTHOUGH the dateline on this week's issue is December 25th, the Christmas celebrations will be over by the time you read this column and you will be thinking about how to welcome in the New Year - 2013.

The arrival of a new year is traditionally a time when we take stock of our lives. I'm not big on New Year celebrations, and to be honest I often feel a bit deflated on New Year's Eve, pondering on the highs and lows of the previous 12 months and wondering what the next 12 will bring.

I always follow a tradition that my father religiously stuck to, as did his father before him, by opening our front door and welcoming in the New Year.

It's one of those rituals like always buying a bottle of Advocaat at Christmas, just in case someone wants a Snowball. They never do and I end up throwing it away the following November!

I'm not one of those people who makes New Year resolutions either, mainly because I have the will power of a gnat and have usually broken them by January 2nd.

The older I get the less I want to change my lifestyle. A few minor adjustments have already

been forced on me by health issues, so giving up alcohol is no longer an option as I rarely take a tipple these days. I am sure my doctor would like me to loose a few more pounds but as I come from a long line of gluttons, and food seems to get more important to me as the years progress (how sad is that!), there's no way any New Year resolution would last more than a day or two.

I would like to get greater equilibrium in the balance between work and my personal life but have worked in the newspaper business for nearly 50 years now, I'm not sure I've really had much of a personal life so I don't think there will be too many changes in that direction.

But as I am one those highly fortunate people who thrives on what I do, I really wouldn't want it to be any different.

All this waffle gets me to the end of this column and gives a final opportunity to wish all those of you who read this missive every week, those who advertise in our papers and those who keep us informed on what is going on in **Pulman's Country**, a very happy 2013 - and a contented one as well.

Philip Evans

COLYTON

Kilimanjaro climb for meningitis

A UNIVERSITY student from Colyton is looking to peak by climbing Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

Natalie Callaghan is set to take on the challenge in June next year with 34 fellow students.

She is currently in her second year of studying English literature at the the University of Surrey and, apart from trying to reach the top, she will raise money for charity.

Natalie said: "Every student must raise £2,650 for their chosen charity, mine being the Meningitis Research Foundation; £800 of which must be raised by February."

The challenge's formal name is Kilimanjaro Summit Trek, and Natalie's team will take part under the banner of an organisation called Student Adventures.

She said: "It was my university that chose the two charities (Meningitis Research Foundation and Practical Action) so we had a choice of the two.

"I decided on MRF because I felt it's easier for people to relate to, as it can affect anyone.

"For example, my great aunt contracted it and I know of others that have been affected.

"I am in the process of getting as much sponsorship as possible and I am also planning a variety of fundraising events.

"Any amount of sponsorship would be hugely appreciated and would be put to good use by the foundation. Alternatively, any raffle prizes would be appreciated too."

Anyone interested in sponsoring her can find out more online at www.myraising.com/natalie-callaghan/climbingkili.

SEATON

Museum celenbrates

AXE Valley Heritage Museum volunteers celebrated the year with their annual open weekend, welcoming visitors and regular supporters to celebrate Christmas.

The annual open weekend aims to celebrate the year, welcoming all to enjoy mince pies and wine whilst enjoying the exhibits in the museum.

As part of the event, a temporary exhibition featuring photographs of Beer villagers throughout the past 100 years became a new addition to the museum.

OTTERY

National award for dementia service

AN INNOVATIVE service that enhances the lives of older people with dementia in East Devon has secured a prestigious national award.

The Rowan and Linden centres are among only eight winners of an Innovation and Best Practice in Community Hospitals Award for 2012.

The centres, based at Ottery St Mary, provide a safe haven and ongoing support for people with dementia, anxiety or depression or who are socially isolated.

The awards are organised by the Community Hospitals Association (CHA).

Chief executive Barbara Moore, who visited East Devon on a recent fact-finding mission, said: "I was very impressed with what they are doing at Ottery.

"The staff there are excellent and the service and care they provide for dementia patients is first-class."

The Rowan and Linden team will collect their award at the CHA's annual conference at the Marriott Worsley Park Hotel and Country Club in Manchester in May 2013.

Each winner will present their project to delegates during a series of workshops.

Pulman's View from the churches

With NIGEL SPELLER

Linda Chester, Methodist Minister, opens this week for us - "Is Bethlehem a real place?" Fifteen year old Shelley was amazed to read "Bethlehem" on our Pilgrimage itinerary. Sadly Shelley, as so many others, had lumped the Christmas story together with Father Christmas and every other fairy tale.

What is the real part of Christmas for you? In our society there is so much emphasis on *spend, spend, spend*at Christmas. It's all too easy for the true message of Christmas to be side-lined. And yet Christians are celebrating a life-changing experience, something that is real for each person, young or old.

We believe the Almighty, Creator God holds out His hand in love, through the birth of Jesus Christ, to restore the broken relationship with humanity. A new way forward with hope, peace, joy and reconciliation is possible. How much our world needs this message today; a message that is real.

It is understandable that the women bishops topic for Anglican Churches and people will not die down. Following discussions at Lambeth Palace a fresh working group will meet in February to review the position and lead on to discussions in May in the House of Bishops, to agree elements of new proposals which will then be presented to the General Synod in July 2013.

Meanwhile the latest census figures show that the number of Christians in England and Wales has fallen by more than four million in a decade. There is also a decline in marriage, which is attributed to the rise in individualistic thinking. Archbishop Rowan Williams used his last speech in the House of Lords as Primate to warn that British society too often wants older citizens 'off our hands'. He was opening a debate on how elderly people should be viewed as 'participants' in society rather than merely 'passengers'.

Other senior bishops have agreed to tweet their Christmas sermons for the first time this year. This is part of a campaign to spread the news of the meaning of Christmas to millions of Twitter users. *The Pitch* Filmmakers offer ideas for short films inspired by the Bible - and want votes for choice for favourites. The competition is to come up with great, contemporary films, drawing on Bible inspiration. Now into its fourth year, it encourages entrants to give Scripture 'the Sherlock treatment' - taking a great story from one particular time, then transposing it to another time and place.

See this year's pitches and vote at enterthepitch.com/view/

We close this Column for 2012 by wishing *A Happy Christmas to all our readers-and hope you will be with us in 2013.*



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Plan to extend skatepark in memory of teenager

By Anders Larsson
anders@tindlenews.co.uk

AN ACTION plan to extend an Axminster skatepark, as a legacy to a teenager who died in a car accident, has been announced.

Eighteen-year-old Tom Chubb died in a car crash on the A358 at Musbury on October 31st.

He had been a frequent user of the skatepark at Cloakham Lawn Sports Centre for a number of years.

The sport centre's skatepark management group hopes to extend the facility and has announced an action plan and that local youths will lead the project.

The management group is made up of both adults and youngsters, including Tom's mum Eve and brother Ed.

Minutes from a management group meeting summarised the situation and outlined the way forward: "Although the existing skatepark was only created six years ago, it is considered outdated.

"It may be satisfactory for bikes and scooters, but is not ideal for

skateboarders.

"It is suggested that we should leave the existing facility in-situ (rather than upgrading) and extend the skatepark in an easterly direction - with a new concrete surface and equipment of a flat-packed nature, filled with concrete.

"It was also reported that such a development would be similar to facilities in Dorchester and Teignmouth, and a visit to the latter will be arranged next year.

Management group members agreed that it is "essential that the project should be led by young people" and managed for the benefit of young people. It is hoped that a project group of youngsters can be formed through the local youth centre.

But the extension won't materialise without money.

Minutes from the meeting stated: "The project will require a major fundraising campaign.

"A number of ideas were mentioned including Section 106 funding (money generated through the planning process), Local Community Infrastructure Levy, grants, trusts, donations and traditional fundraising events.

"Funds in memory of Tom Chubb will start the fundraising initiative.

"Another meeting will be held in due course, after which further details will be announced. Anyone wishing to either, donate, get involved (adults and youngsters alike), propose a formal name for the extended skatepark or propose a logo design for the facility can do so by contacting Andrew Moulding on 01297 553 865 or by emailing andrew.moulding2008@btinternet.com

Permission to build new church following four years of effort

'Wonderful Christmas present' says Pastor

A CHURCH congregation has eventually gained planning permission to build a new home after almost four years of a nomadic existence.

Problems for Kilminster Baptist Church started in March 2009 when its chapel was destroyed by before.

The congregation was well on its way to outgrowing the chapel, but the search for a new home intensified after the fire.

A site was found on the corner of George Lane and the A35, and plans for a new church including a 150-seat auditorium were drawn up.

Planners supported the application but a large proportion of locals felt the location was unsuitable because of traffic-related issues and

the size of the proposed building.

Members of East Devon District Council's Development Management Committee refused the application and the church was back to square one.

Land just north of the village hall in Whitford Road was identified and a planning application for a new church with associated access, parking and landscaping was submitted on October 14th this year.

This time the ride was a lot smoother and planning permission was given on December 14th.

The good news was communicated to congregation members during a service on Sunday, December 16th.

Pastor Darrell Holmes described the approval as a "a wonderful Christmas present", and added:

"There were smiles, hugs and a spontaneous round of applause in celebration.

"Together we have been waiting since March 2009 to find a replacement site for the building, and now it has been secured and approved there was clearly a sense of relief.

"Our thanks go to the villagers, the parish council and the district councillors for their assistance in putting this scheme together.

"It represents a £1 million investment in the village to create a flexible building for the benefit of congregation and community alike.

"Our building team will now press on with the next stage of work to prepare a detailed design and tender documents for prospective building firms to win the contract."



■ NEW HOME: An architect's impression of the new church

Highs and lows of the Rotary year

MORE than 100 people descended on the Guildhall for Rotary Club of Axminster's Christmas lunch on Friday, December 14th.

A total of 108 places had been prepared for the annual event and guests were treated to food, drink, speeches and could also try their luck in the raffle which concluded the event.

Rotary Club of Axminster President Malcolm Reynolds looked both back and forward during his speech.

Although it had been a difficult year in terms of cancelled or altered events because of bad weather, he managed to find lots of highlights when looking back.

These included the local response to a collection in aid of July flood victims, how those involved rallied round to put on a splendid indoor Jubilee party when the planned outdoor one fell victim to the rain, and much more.

Looking forward, he mentioned increased co-operation with Axe Valley Community College, and the club's forthcoming involvement with the town's beer festival.

He also said the club is planning to stage a concert in the Guildhall in March, with details to be announced.



■ TOP table guests at the Rotary Club's annual Christmas lunch



Merv and Duncan are new traders' champs

TEAM Symes-Colvin is the new holder of The Old Inn Trophy, Axminster Chamber of Commerce's top skittles prize.

Chamber members gathered at Old Inn, Kilmington, on Tuesday, December 11th for its Christmas social.

Approximately 20 members turned up and the event included a skittles pairs competition.

It was won by Mervyn Symes and Old Inn landlord Duncan Colvin, who made sure Shane and Claire Morgan could not defend the title they won the previous year.

Chamber chairman Shane Morgan wasn't too downbeat and said: "It was a lovely buffet and a good time was had by all."



■ SKITTILING CHAMPS; Duncan Colvin (left) and Mervyn Symes with their trophy



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News briefs

Third arrest in drugs probe

POLICE have arrested and bailed a third person in connection with an on-going investigation in Axminster.

As reported last week, two people had been arrested at an address in the town on December 11th on suspicion of possessing drugs with intent to supply.

They were subsequently bailed.

Police have since said that, as part of the investigation, a third person was also arrested and bailed on suspicion of possessing drugs with intent to supply.

Car crashes on A35

A MAN taken to hospital with "minor" injuries after a car accident on the A35 at Gammons Hill, Axminster.

Emergency services were called at about 9pm on Monday, December 10th.

The fire and rescue service despatched appliances from Axminster and Colyton - and received back-up from a Lyme Regis-based appliance.

A spokesperson for the fire and rescue service said: "Fire crews confirmed a single-vehicle road traffic collision. One male casualty was removed from the vehicle prior to the arrival of the service by passers-by."

The injured man was taken to Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton with what police described as "minor injuries".



Primary Nativity

■ **HAYMAKERS:** Humming Bird and Kingfisher classes were responsible for this year's nativity play at St Mary's Primary School in Axminster.

The name of the play was Prickly Hay, and the pupils gave performances on December 18th and 19th.

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■ **RED DEVILS:** (from the left) Mattie Vincent, Tony Pinder, Kyle Gould, Peter Smith, Max Richardson and Jacob Rowe prepare to create some atmosphere

Students at the Theatre of Dreams

A 45-strong group of Axe Valley Community College students switched the classroom for Old Trafford, aka Theatre of Dreams, on Wednesday, December 5th.

They travelled north to watch Manchester United take on Romanian side Cluj in the Champions' League. PE teacher and trip organiser Dave Owen said: "The students were very well behaved and clearly really enjoyed the trip, despite the very cold weather and the length of the day."

The students arrived back in Axminster at 3.35 am.

Luke Feldman, a Year 7 student, summed up by saying: "It was an amazing experience going to Old Trafford and seeing Rooney play."

"Although Manchester United lost 1-0, I really enjoyed the game."

"Without this opportunity provided by college, I would never have been able to go."

"I will remember this experience for a very, very long time."

Colyton artist reveals personal photos of the late Patrick Moore



COLYTON artist Ann Jones has released photos of herself and the late astronomer and television presenter, Sir Patrick Moore, who died earlier this month.

Ann and her husband Alan visited Sir Patrick in his Sussex home, where Ann painted portraits of the astronomer and of his beloved cat Jeanni in his music room.

The couple were later invited to his birthday party and to the celebrations

marking the 50th anniversary of the "Sky at Night" television programme.

Mr and Mrs Jones and Sir Patrick exchanged Christmas cards every year.

The photos show here have been rarely seen before. Pictured left, Ann paints Sir Patrick's portrait in his music room. Below left, Sir Patrick with Ann at his 80th birthday. Below, Ann's painting is shown at the "Sky at Night" anniversary part and, inset, Sir Patrick with Ann's painting of his cat, Jeanni



News briefs

Colyton girl's artwork in national exhibition

A DRAWING by 19-year-old Melissa Freemantle from Colyton, who left Colyton Grammar School this summer, has been selected for exhibition at the Royal Society of British Artists' annual show in London.

Sidmouth Decorative & Fine Arts Society submitted the work for the society's consideration.

This year 52 societies submitted over 465 art works from 87 schools, so the royal society had even more of a challenge than usual.

Melissa is currently following an Art Foundation course at University College Falmouth.

Her will be included in the exhibition in March 2013.

Melissa's drawing can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/12oT2pn> and all the selected works can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/T7ljx2>

Jubilee mugs still available

COLYTON Parish Council is calling for more children to come forward and collect their Diamond Jubilee mugs.

Souvenir mugs are available for £5 for all children of primary school age or below in the parish of Colyton, but the council has been left with boxes still unclaimed.

At the December meeting of the council it was decided a box of mugs would be taken to Colyton Primary School for children who had not yet claimed theirs.

Mugs are also available from the parish clerk Liz Berry who is in the council office on Tuesday and Thursday from 10.30am to 12.30pm - phone 01297 552460.

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Primary school gives food bank a boost

KEY Stage One performers from the Prickly Hay play: Flo Winter, Samuel Hemmens, Stephen Johns, and Jacob Turl alongside donations from visiting parents, friends and family to their afternoon performance

VISITORS to Seaton Primary School's 'Prickly Hay' Key Stage One nativity and Key Stage Two carol concerts have been giving Seaton's food bank a boost.

Guests to the school's Christmas

activities are welcomed to donate to charity and this year it was decided that donations of food should be made to support the worthy cause within Seaton.

Festive exercise session for Seaton Age UK group

LADIES from the Age UK Devon 'Body Moves' group enjoyed a special festive session this week complete with Christmas party.

The group welcomes up to 40 regulars at Seaton Methodist Church every Tuesday from 11:30 am-12:30pm for gentle exercises aimed at keeping those aged 50 plus fit, active and healthy.

The group enjoyed a smaller exercise session than usual led by their approved tutor Sam Neil before enjoying a bring and share lunch featuring party nibbles, Christmas treats and mulled wine.

The clan of ladies also held a special game, with images of the members as youngsters pinned all over the walls and the chance to 'guess the baby' and match it to their friends.

At the end of the session, members of the group presented their instructor with a gift of thanks and an especially written poem, for all her involvement and dedication to the club.

Body Moves will resume in the New Year on Tuesday, January 8th and all are welcome, including younger members of the community, with the first session free and sessions at a cost of £3 a week thereafter.



CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION | Members of the Age UK Devon 'Body Moves' group enjoyed a special end of year Christmas party (top) after the group of all dancing ladies took part in a gentle exercise session, led by instructor Sam Neil



Beer Nativity

CHILDREN from Puffins Pre-School in Beer performed their annual nativity play this week. The youngsters dressed in traditional costumes to perform the show at the Mariners Hall in front of a packed audience of family members

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Beer residents treated to festive dinner

A HANDFUL of Beer residents were treated to a special Christmas meal by members of the village's Youth Hostel Association (YHA).

Sixteen dedicated villagers arrived at Beer's YHA for a celebratory evening where they were able to meet with staff and discover what the hostel had to offer, whilst receiving a gift back for their commitment to the village.

Guests at the event were parish councillor Trevor Wood and his wife Jean, Norah and Henry Jagers, Wendy Cummins of the RNLI, Kim and Jayne Aplin, Scout leaders Nigel Groves and Fiona Gage, Annie Boalch, Liz Fahey, Jan Beavis, Mary Hawker and Debbie & Michael Barry.

Chosen for their involvement in the village, the group were just a handful of worthy villagers to the dinner, with the main emphasis on giving back to them as they had given to the local community of Beer.

The guests arrived at the YHA and were greeted with hot mulled apple juice and mince pies in the lounge before moving to the dining hall for a three-course dinner featuring homemade tomato soup, roast chicken and all the trimmings and Christmas pudding.

The group was then taken on a tour of the YHA, which for many brought back nostalgic

By Laura Goldsbury-Noy
laura@pemedi.co.uk

feelings from the past and reinstated their childhood excitement from school trips and holidays.

Manager of the Beer YHA, Mike Ruiter, said: "I was really pleased with the response to the meal and it was good to meet so many interesting and exciting people from the village - I wish we could have had more."

"I was not expecting especially to see such excitement from the guests to be in a youth hostel and the nostalgia that went alongside it, and it was a pleasure to give them a tour around the building."

"I am glad so many came and had a good evening and it was inspiring and energising to meet a group of such dedicated individuals who work so closely to help the local community."

"Although forming bonds with the local community will help the youth hostel, the evening was really about giving back to the many people who support the village."

"Individuals such as Jan Beavis, who created a special surprise garden for Mary Hawke, really show what community is about and I am glad I could help to celebrate their work."



GIVING TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY | Guests enjoyed an evening at Beer's Youth Hostel and were treated to a meal to thank them for their work in the village

Car park upgrade completed

BEER Parish Council is pleased to report the completion of the project to upgrade the Townsend coach and car park.

Resurfacing of the site was completed in early December and new white lines have been applied to improve the layout.

The parish council received a grant of £5,000 from Devon County Council's 'Invest in Devon' fund towards the costs of the project.

The Invest in Devon fund aims to support community projects from funds raised by the sale of Exeter Airport.

The grant has enabled the parish council to develop an under used asset for the benefit of the local community.

The parish council would like to thank Devon County Councillor, Jim Knight, for supporting this project and helping

to bring it to fruition.

Beer Parish Council acquired Townsend coach and car park from East Devon District Council in 2011. Following a review of parking arrangements, the parish council extended parking facilities at the site to provide 24 hour, year round, guaranteed permit parking for nine cars and two small commercial vehicles.

A spokesperson for the parish council said: "Tourism is a key industry in Beer and Townsend also provides free coach parking during the day and overnight permit parking for three coaches."

"Townsend coach and car park is a highly valued community asset in Beer where parking is in demand from both local residents and visitors to the village."

CHRISTMAS food shoppers at Seaton's Tesco store were given a helping hand this weekend by the 1st Beer Scouts and Axe Air Explorers.

Over 15 young people, parents and Leaders took part packing bags and taking trolleys to cars.

Explorer Scout leader, Fiona Gage, said: "It was a tiring day, but the amount raised was a tribute to the hard work that the group's members put in. They were all still smiling at the end of the day."

Youngster Maddie White added: "I really enjoyed today but it was hard work."

Eleven-year-old Mia Bartlett quietly carried on packing beside her.

Nigel Groves, Group Scout Leader, said "We would like to thank all of the people who visited Tesco that day for their generosity raising £443.59 and especially Tesco Seaton for having us there."

"The money will be spent on replacing camping equipment due to the high usage it's had over the past six years or so."



Scouts get packing

■ Sam Morton and Matthew Smale get packing
Photo by FIONA GAGE

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East Devon Women's Institutes ROUND UP

AWLISCOMBE

MEMBERS were welcomed to the December meeting with a glass of mulled wine and carol singing in the background.

There was a bring and share supper followed by delicious sweets made by the committee.

The Christmas market proved very popular as did the competition: a 'seasonal fascinator' attracted 14 entries and the winners were Marilyn Wright and Heather Penwarden.

The president, Olive Price, organised the painting of jam jars for night lights. Santa's little helpers, Irene Maynard and Mary Martin, distributed presents to everyone. The evening concluded with more carol singing.

KILMINGTON

AFTER Jerusalem and apologies at the December meeting, the minutes were read and - arising from that - the skittles match has had to be rearranged.

An invitation was received from Seaton WI for four people to go to a party. The Christmas dinner at Seaton had been enjoyed by everyone. Final arrangements were made for the visit to the pantomime at Torquay and there were still a few seats available.

Members were urged to answer the questionnaire in WI Life about the future of Denman College (the WI college, near Abingdon). Vari-

ous county activities were brought to our notice.

The mince pie making demonstration by Phyllis Bellworthy and Barbara Woodsford followed and then the pies were tasted with our coffee and tea.

They were pronounced excellent and the demonstrators were thanked by Joy. We then enjoyed a game of bingo.

Flower of the month was won by Joy and the competition by Christine. After Christmas wishes all round the meeting closed.

Next month's meeting on January 10th will feature Brian Carlson talking about pelargoniums.

HONITON AFTERNOON

ONCE again December has been a very festive month for the Honiton Afternoon WI.

The annual Devon Federation Carol Service took place in Exeter Cathedral and was much enjoyed by the members who attended. Nineteen members went to the Otter Inn at Weston for a Christmas Meal.

The food and service was extremely good and it was a very happy occasion. At their usual monthly meeting members were entertained by Farmer George and his Missus (Max and Maggie Pipe). They kept everyone very amused with their humorous poems and stories.

The afternoon ended with tea and hot mince pies. The first meeting in 2013 is on January 14th, at 2pm, in the Methodist Chapel. The speaker will be PCSO Barry Redford. Visitors are always very welcome to attend.



MEMBERS of Whitford & Musbury WI enjoy the club's festive activities

AXMINSTER & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

THE Axminster & District Horticultural Society recently held their Annual General Meeting.

The president, Mary Benger, opened the proceedings by welcoming the members. She said it had been another successful year thanks due to the chairman and committee.

Mrs Benger said how disappointed everyone had been when the weather caused the cancellation of the show but the committee was now busy preparing for next year.

The chairman thanked the committee for their hard work and drew the members attention to 2013 when the horticultural society will start meeting on the third Thursday of the month at 2:30pm. The venue will be the same.

It had been a good year for outings and despite the bad weather the outings fared well, being mainly dry and sunny.

Naomi Lawrence gave an interesting and vibrant talk entitled 'Building a Show Garden at Hampton Court.'

Brought up on a farm and being fourth generation of a farming family she looked to agriculture but decided to go into horticulture instead. Naomi was the youngest garden designer to make a garden for a RHS show.

A student at Kingston Maurwood College, in her first year as part of her work she had done a 'Garden Design'.

During her summer break she went to Guernsey to work sharing a top floor flat with 25 other girls. During this time she was asked to tidy up and get ready a garden which was entered into a prestigious competition which won Large Gold.

The RHS were looking for young unknown garden designers for the Hampton Court Show and the college asked Naomi if they could send in her design.

She was assured the she would hear quite quickly but the months went by and suddenly she heard she had been chosen. It was to be built four days after she finished college.

The next step was to be told you had to find your own accommodation for two weeks, including any helpers - a site on a camp and the loan of a caravan solved that.

Much of the structure of the garden needed to be made beforehand. Though they could do the basics several firms came to the rescue to finish off items.

Sponsors needed to be found to supply timber, etc, and many local firms came to her aid.

Plants had to be mature and a 10ft Silver Birch was needed and finally found. Wild flowers needed to be flowering at the right time; though sown over a period they all caught up.

A nursery gathered them up and worked a miracle on them. Shrubs though obtainable from nurseries were not large enough so Grannies garden was raided.

She needed help, a landscape gardener plus muscle. She arrived at Hampton Court with landscape gardener and Dad, just a team of three. Never having been to a show she had know idea what to expect.

The site in a corner sloped. Asking officials about this they said try the two gardens next to you, one was the BBC's and the other belonged to a council.

One supplied top soil the other machinery and the problem was solved. After a week of toiling and getting the walls built and paths laid, the two man help departed but family and friends moved in for the planting and it was completed on time.

Naomi told the members that being so young meant that she did not worry as much then as she would have now. But the end result was a Silver Medal which was well deserved by someone so young and talented. Everyone enjoyed the talk and relived the experience with her.

● The Axminster & District Horticultural Society will hold its next meeting in 2013 at the United Reformed Church Hall, Chard Street at 2:30pm on Thursday, January 17th.

The speakers will be Mr & Mrs Squires talking on 'Gardens of Scotland and Ireland'.

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The application is to: - Play live and recorded music and sale of alcohol between 0900 – 2100 on 16th March 2013 and 0900 – 1900 on the 17th March 2013

Any person wishing to make representations to this application may do so by writing to The Licensing Manager, East Devon District Council, Council Offices, Knowle, Sidmouth, EX10 8HL not later than 28 days after the date of this notice.
www.eastdevon.gov.uk

A copy of the application can be viewed at the Licensing Authority's address during normal office hours.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000

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View 2

The ultimate leisure guide for Devon

Reelin' them in

Ska punk legends Reel Big Fish
return to The Lemon Grove
See p12



Diary Dates

MONDAY DECEMBER 31st

SIDMOUTH: New Year's Eve Party - Pete Allen's Solo Jazz Show at the Cellar Bar, Kennaway House, 7pm - 1am. Admission by ticket only, £49.50, to include: welcome drink, grand gala buffet with hot and cold dishes, music for dancing from Pete Allen's Solo Live Music Show and his recorded 50s, 60s and 70s selection.

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 9th

AXMINSTER: Do you believe in here and now - not the hereafter? You're not alone. Humanists believe that we can live a meaningful life without gods or religion. There will be a talk and discussion on the Principles of Humanism at the Senior Citizens' Centre, Church Street, Axminster at 7pm organised by the East Devon Humanists. For more details call 01404 46766.

FRIDAY JANUARY 11th & SATURDAY 12th

WEST HILL: Pantomime: Dick Whittington, held at West Hill Village Hall. Friday at 7pm, and Saturday at 1pm. Staged by professional company Wonder productions. Ticket cost £9 adults and £7 children. Plenty of parking. All proceeds to West Hill Village Hall funds. Tickets sold in advance and no reserved seats, available from West Hill Post Office, or by calling 01404 812593.

MONDAY JANUARY 14th

AWULCOMBE: Honiton Art Society demonstration by local artist Mike Hughes 'Wild Life in Acrylics'. Visitors and new member very welcome. Visitors £2

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 23rd

UPLYME: Talk: 'Development of Burrow Farm Gardens' by Mary Benger - from working farm and old Roman clay pit to ten acre garden. At Uplyme Village Hall from 7.30pm. Organised by Uplyme and Lyme Regis Horticultural Society. Members free, non-members £2. For more details call 01297 444034 or www.ulrns.wordpress.com

SATURDAY JANUARY 26th

UPLYME: Barn Dance with Long Odds and Short Straws. At Uplyme Village Hall. Tickets £8 (under 12s £4) including ploughmans supper, available from Uplyme Stores, Serendip Bookshop, Lyme Regis or call 01297 444034. BYO alcohol, soft drinks on sale. Organised by Uplyme and Lyme Regis Horticultural Society.

Reelin' them in

CALIFORNIAN ska-punk legends return to Exeter on Friday, February 22nd.

Always energetic and with a back catalogue of great tunes, mixed with upbeat covers, the group bring the party to The Lemon Grove at Exeter University, with doors opening at 8pm. Support comes from Magnus Puto and Suburban Legends.

Tickets cost £14.50 (plus booking fee) and are available online at www.exeterboxoffice.com or by calling 01392 723518 for more details.



THE SNAIL AND THE WHALE

THIS year's Christmas show at Exeter Northcott looks set to be a winner with children and grown-ups alike.

Tall Stories, creators of *The Gruffalo* and *Room on the Broom*, bring their latest production, *The Snail and the Whale*, to the theatre for a festive run until December 30th.

This charming play of bravery tells the story of a tiny snail who longs to see the world and hitches a lift on the tail of a humpback whale. What an adventure the pair embark upon, as they journey together across the seas.

But then disaster strikes - the whale gets beached in a bay. Can the brave little snail save the day? Follow the snail's amazing journey, as seen through the eyes of an adventurous young girl and her seafaring father.

Tickets are available online at www.exeternorthcott.co.uk or by calling 01392 493493.

Make Salsa Cascara your New Year's resolution

WITH the New Year of 2013 approaching fast, many of us will start thinking about New Year Resolutions... Perhaps you want to get fit, lose weight, take up a new hobby and meet new friends? How about starting Salsa?! Salsa classes with Salsa Cascara can help with all those resolutions!

On Wednesday, January 9th, UKA Qualified Instructors, Mal and Bev of Salsa Cascara, will be opening the doors of The Boutique Nightclub in Honiton to existing and NEW students. If you have never danced before then come along on your own, with your partner or a group of friends and join the 6 Week Beginner Course starting on Wednesday 9th January.

Salsa Cascara have been running weekly Salsa classes in Honiton since July 2008. There are three levels of classes - so something for everyone! There is a Beginner Class at 7.45pm in the Lounge Bar, Move to Improver Class in the downstairs Nightclub at 7.45pm followed by an Improver Level Class at 9.00pm. The evening ends with social dancing until 10.30pm. It is much more than just a dance class, it's a fun night out!



Bev and Mal

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01 JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2013 13		
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FLAX MEADOW LANE



This attractive detached flint stone coach house comes complete with adjoining garage accessed through the private garden. Benefiting from gas fired central heating & double glazing, comprises Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Bedroom 2 with walk in cupboard, triple aspect open plan living room & Kitchen/ Diner, Master bedroom with luxury Bathroom. **Viewing highly recommended. £147,950**

PULMAN HOUSE



Representing excellent value for money this superbly presented 2 bedroom first floor town centre apartment benefits from gas fired central heating and secondary double glazing comprising communal hallway, living room, fitted kitchen, luxury bathroom & 2 bedrooms. **£79,950**

WEST CLOSE



In need of modernisation this 2 bedroom detached bungalow is situated in this sought after Cul-de-sac location which is within easy walking distance of the Town centre shops and all amenities, including local supermarkets and the railway station. Offering night storage heating and some double glazing, the well planned accommodation comprises Entrance Hall, Spacious Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms and Bathroom. Outside a long driveway leads to a garage and at the rear is a small south facing level area of garden **£199,950.**

ABBEY CLOSE



This 4 bedroom detached former show house is still in immaculate decorative order throughout and offers most versatile and well planned accommodation and is set in landscaped private gardens, benefiting from a detached double garage with adjoining hardstanding space for 2/3 cars, gas fired central heating, double glazing throughout and integrated fitted kitchen comprises Entrance Hall, Cloakroom, Lounge/Dining Room, Sitting Room, Study/Bed 4, Superb Kitchen with Utility Area, 3 Further good size bedrooms, En-suite shower & Bathroom. **Viewing highly recommended £299,995**

THE ARCHES



This very spacious stone built barn conversion is situated in the heart of the town centre in a quiet backwater location benefiting from 4 double bedrooms, 2 bathrooms arranged over three floors, games room and double garage. The property benefits from spacious and open plan living room with Inglenook style fireplace, former cloakroom, spacious fitted kitchen / dining room, 4 double bedrooms (en-suite), bathroom, shower room, games room, enclosed garden, double garage **£289,950**

PRESTOLLER HOUSE



This substantial 1930's detached house is situated in a favoured residential location which is within easy walking distance of the town centre, offering both annexe and bed and breakfast potential, ample parking, private south facing gardens with sun terrace, kitchen garden, greenhouse and shed approx. 1/2 an acre. No onward chain. Accommodation comprises storm porch, spacious hall, cloakroom, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, 3 double bedrooms, WC, bathroom, annexe B&B with en-suite shower room. **£450,000**

ROUSDON



Situated in this favoured location this individually built detached family house comprises: spacious reception hall/study, cloakroom, living dining room /kitchen, utility room, first floor lounge with balcony, master bedroom, en-suite shower room, 2 further double bedrooms, large family bathroom, separate cloakroom, private gardens enjoying sunny aspect, large detached garage, loads of parking/hardstanding, separate annexe with 2 bedrooms & own private garden. **Viewing highly recommended. £389,950**

GLOUCESTER HOUSE



This fine Grade II listed Georgian Town House boasts a wealth of character features including Flag stone floors, window shutters, impressive fire places and wonderful proportioned rooms throughout the 3 floors of accommodation. Benefiting from gas fired central heating, off road parking, 5 Double Bedrooms, 4 reception rooms and living Kitchen this house must be viewed to be fully appreciated. **£399,000**

PARKSIDE



In a cul-de-sac of three detached bungalows this four bedroom bungalow comprises spacious entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner with designer William Ball kitchen, family bathroom, master bedroom with en-suite shower room, 3 further double bedrooms. To the front there is a parking space and to the side a large tarmac area for further parking. The gardens to the rear comprise 4 raised vegetable beds and lawns. **£345,000**

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MILLBROOK DALE



Situated in this favoured cul-de-sac of bungalows and within easy walking distance of the town centre & all amenities, this superbly presented example benefits from many extra additions including a spacious conservatory extension and workshops/garden rooms created from space beneath the bungalow. Benefiting from a new fitted kitchen & bathroom comprises Entrance porch, Hallway, Shower Cloakroom, Lounge/Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast, Conservatory, 3 Double Bedrooms, well stocked and landscaped gardens Garage & underground workshop/garden rooms. **£345,000**



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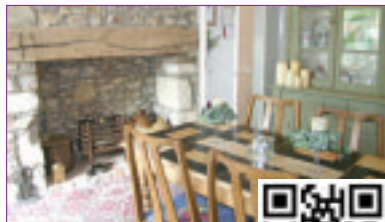


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ON MY
SERVICE
HEAD TO
FEETI first started caring for peoples health
in the sixties when I did my S.E.N nurs-
ing training in Sheffield.The real introduction to Complementary
Medicine was when my second child
become ill, and it was only osteopathy
that helped her. About the same time a
friend of mine was having trouble with
her back, she asked me if I could mas-
sage it for her, as I seemed to have heal-
ing hands, I was able to give her a lot of
relief, being in a lot of pain at the time.
I become more and more interested in
Complementary Medicine and was able
to help my friends and family even
more.It wasn't until we came down to live in
Axminster, I was working as a Care As-
sistant in a Dementia Care Home, that
I decided to take a course or 3 with the
"School of Natural Health Sciences" in
Reflexology, Advanced Reflexology",
and "Indian Head Massage". I was an
A student. I became a member of the
"International College of Holistic Med-
icine". As Indian Head Massage con-
sists also of back and shoulder massage
[as well as neck head and face] with or
without out oils I am able to continue
with Back and Shoulder massage as a
separate therapy if required. I am able
to work from home including home vis-
its, and care homes. Treatments usually
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candles and soft relaxing music.Reflexology is massage of the body as
a whole through the feet or hands. As
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and stimulates the whole body, thus al-
lowing it to work better. Allowing me to
help each client with there own individ-
ual needs.As I am also a carer at home I have been
able to realize how important these ther-
apies can be.

Motoring View

Ford Ranger grabs another 2013 'Pick-up of the Year' award

THE Ford Ranger has won 4x4 Magazine Pick-Up of the Year 2013, making it a record-breaking seventh award in 12 months for the vehicle.

The UK pick-up market has grown by more than 25 per cent since 2009, with eight models currently competing in the segment. The Ford Ranger has emerged victorious from a group of seven vehicles reviewed – the most comprehensive pick-up test 4x4 Magazine has ever conducted.

Nigel Fryatt, 4x4 Magazine Editor, said: "Ford's new Ranger has significantly raised the bar in the pick-up market. Our extensive test showed the variety of products that are now on the UK market, and the Ranger topped them all with better overall ability, superb ride quality and an interior that makes it hard to believe this is a commercial vehicle. Indeed, no other pick-up came close in terms of interior comfort and specification."

Ford UK managing director, Mark Ovenden, said: "The awards

keep on coming for the Ford Ranger as it continues to assert its presence in the market. Our customers have really welcomed the

introduction of the all-new model, boosting sales by nearly 20 per cent compared with last year."



▲ The Ford Ranger has won 4x4 Magazine Pick-Up of the Year 2013

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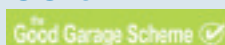
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2002 02 Reg, Green metallic with grey cloth interior, A/C, elec win/mirrors, FULLY FOLDING FRONT FACING EXTRA SEATS, alloys, CD stereo, ONLY 91K mls, F/S/H, Real value as only**£3,995 p/x welcome**

KIA HATCHBACK SOUL 2 PETROL MANUAL



2009 09 Reg, black metallic with grey cloth interior, A/C, elec win/mirrors, ABS SRS, alloys, UPRIGHT SEATING POSITION IDEAL FOR PEOPLE WITH BACK PROBLEMS, CD stereo system, 1 PREVIOUS OWNER, FSH, Exceptional value as only**£5995 p/x welcome.**

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2004 54 Reg, Dark blue metallic with grey cloth interior, A/C, elec win/mirrors, alloys, CD stereo, 68,000 MILES, F/S/H, Exceptional condition and real value as only**£3,995 p/x welcome**

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2001 Reg, Midnight blue metallic with FULL LEATHER INTERIOR, A/C, elec win/mirrors, alloys, 1 OWNER FROM NEW, ONLY 70K mls, F/S/H, A RARE ONE OWNER GENUINE LOW MILEAGE EXAMPLE AND REAL VALUE AS ONLY **£4,995 p/x welcome**

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Ampera: Gift it, try it, keep it...or return it



AT A time when stress levels are high Vauxhall is spreading a little Christmas joy by eliminating the anxiety associated with choosing the perfect gift.

From today, Vauxhall Ampera buyers will benefit from a 30-day satisfaction guarantee, meaning that you can buy it, try it, and if it doesn't suit, simply return it within 30 days, no questions asked – and even the batteries are included!

This latest introduction adds to an array of stress-busting attributes the 2012 European Car of the Year already delivers, such as...

Zero range anxiety

Thanks to its ground breaking propulsion system the Ampera is the only electric car suitable for all journeys. Electricity stored within the battery powers the wheels for up to 50 miles, this is sufficient for 85 per cent of daily commutes in the UK. However what really sets the Ampera apart is its on-board range extender (a small petrol engine) which seamlessly engages to generate electricity for longer journeys boosting the range by a further 310 miles.

Zero fuel anxiety

Lithium-ion battery technology means you have the

potential to run on battery power 100 per cent of the time, therefore bypassing the pumps and ever-rising petrol prices.

Zero VED / congestion charge

Its green credentials ensure that the car is exempt from road tax and congestion charge.

Zero ownership anxiety

Vauxhall's unique Lifetime Warranty offers owners complete peace of mind throughout their ownership of the car.

And now, thanks to the 30 day 'Love it or Return it' scheme, the Ampera comes complete with **Zero purchase anxiety**.

"This initiative shows the real world confidence we have in Ampera," said Duncan Aldred, Vauxhall's Chairman and Managing Director. "We appreciate that investing in new technology is a big decision which can require a leap of faith for some buyers. It's therefore vital that we demonstrate our belief in Ampera and provide customer reassurance during the buying process. 'Love it or Return it' aims to achieve just that."

Cooper Tire urges drivers to fit winter tyres as temperature drops

FOLLOWING the first winter cold snap to hit the UK, Cooper Tire is urging drivers to replace their summer rubber with tyres made specifically for the cold temperatures and winter road conditions.

During November and December 2011 the UK's average temperature fell from 8.7°C to 4.8°C and Department for Transport figures showed a significant rise in accidents involving slippery roads in the winter months. A similar trend was recorded in 2010.

As soon as temperatures drop below 7°C, specialist winter rubber performs better than regular summer tyres. Winter tyres provide better grip and higher levels of traction when needed.

Estimates say that less than 5% of motorists fit winter tyres to their cars each year which could mean more than 27 million cars on UK roads are now using tyres not suited to the con-

ditions they face each day.

With specially-formulated tyre compounds and deeper tread patterns, winter tyres such as the Cooper WM-SA2 and WeatherMaster Snow provide better grip in lower temperatures whether surfaces are dry, wet or icy, making them ideal for Britain's roads, more than 130,000 miles of which will never see a gritting lorry through the course of the winter.

"Many of us have seen the performance of winter tyres in action on the continent," said Pete McNally, General Manager of Cooper Tires' European Technical Centre. "Anyone who's been on a ski holiday will have seen Europeans driving around on

snow with levels of grip that most UK motorists only dream of in the winter.

"British drivers need to realise that winter tyres not only offer a safer option when it snows, they are also specifically designed to operate at temperatures below 7°C, making them ideal from December right through to April when the temperatures usually rise again."



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David Light teaching safety for life wishes all his past and present pupils a very Happy Christmas and a successful new year.

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sea angling beer & dist.

BEER & District SAA fished their last club match of 2012 on Saturday night at Seaton, in a strong SW wind

WRITES CHRIS SWEETLAND. Fishing conditions were tricky, but there was a steady stream of fish coming ashore. Species caught on the night were Bass, Dogfish, Whiting, Pout and Rockling.

The winner on the night was Dave Graham with 223.75%. In 2nd place was Andy Franklin with 221.40% and 3rd went to Julian Driver with 185%.

Best fish was Driver's

2lb Dogfish.

2012 champions And all this meant that, with a score of 2342%, Dave Graham is Beer & District shore champion for 2012.

The junior champion award for the year went to Elliot Driver with a score of 1148%.

Anyone who is interested in joining the club, please feel free to come to our signing in night on Wednesday, January 2nd at Beer social club at 8pm. For more details please see our website www.beerangling-club.co.uk

football exeter city roadshows



■ **BRINGING ON THE NEXT CROP:** Exeter City's Football in the Community trust are hosting a series of New Year roadshows. There are three two-day events, open to boys and girls aged 5-14, in Exeter, Exmouth and Sidmouth on 2nd and 3rd of January, plus one-day sessions in Barnstaple, Crediton, Feniton, Honiton and Tiverton on 4th January. Pictured above are Steve Perryman (extreme right), members of the Exeter City first team squad and participants at an earlier Grecians roadshow. For further information please contact Scott Walker on 01392 255611 or email scott.walker@exetercityfc.co.uk. To book online, go to www.exetercityfittrust.org.uk.

Send your sports reports, scores, tables and photos to howard@pemedial.co.uk

martial arts

Successful year for Seaton youngsters



■ **THE Majors and Cadets groups** pictured with their instructors Kevin Mills and Amrik Singh.



■ **SEVEN-year-old Rio Potter** pictured with Kevin Mills, Jenni Mills and Amrik Singh having been presented with his black belt and award.

AFTER an amazing year children from the Seaton Success for Life Group have finished 2012 gradings and passed with flying colours. Children ranging from 4 years of age graded for their new belts and are proudly pictured with them.

To top off the year Success 4 Life Mighty Rio Potter (pictured below with Mr Kevin Mills 8th Dan, Mrs Jenni Mills 4th Dan and Mr Amrik Singh 4th Dan) has just attained his black belt at the tender age of 7.

After the gradings it was remarked that these children would be taken anywhere in the world and be respected by Martial Artists of all styles through their skill focus and confidence we agree.

Success 4 Life programmes run at Seaton Martial Arts Centre and are run by Head Instructor Mr Amrik Singh 4th Dan, ably assisted by Mr Matt Palmer who will be going for his black belt next year and Mrs Aurora Singh.

The classes are broken down by age and ability and completely separate classes are held for each group.

For further information and to book a taster session please call Mr Amrik Singh on 07966 444321.



■ **THE Mightys groups** pictured with their instructor.



■ **THE Minis group** pictured with their instructors.

ON THE SPOT...



WEEKENDER SPORT puts Perry Street League 529-goal legend GRAHAM 'Percy' VERE UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

Q How long did you play local football for? and for which teams?

A About 30 years. I played for Charmouth, Lyme Regis, Drimpton and Misterton.

Q Who were the best three players you played against, and why?

A Clive Gardner (Shepton Beauchamp) - such a big, powerful player. Lethal in front of goal. Andy Bell (Misterton) - Full of skill and artistry, and could get a goal out of nothing. Graham Gold (Misterton) Fantastic organisational skills, he used to run the show at the back.

Q What was your favourite away ground?

A Barrington - I scored six goals in a game there back in 1989.

Q Do any games or incidents stick out in your memory?

A A Dorset Junior cup semi-final at West Moors. It was 0-0 late in the game, we had free-kick and the ball goes through a crowded penalty box and sneaks in the corner and is then kicked out. The referee plays on but the West Moors linesman calls the ref back and tells him ball was over the line. The West Moors players can't believe it - their own linesman puts them out of the cup! We went into the final and won it. An honest linesman, fair play to him.

Q Do you still follow local football?

A I still follow Lyme Regis, and Seaton Town where my son Cameron plays.

Q Have you got any advice for today's young players?

A Keep off the drink on Friday nights, steer well clear of drugs, train hard, stay fit and enjoy it - it's all over too soon - One day you'll be writing one of these! I hope today's players have as much fun as I did and just remember always give it rice!

equestrian point-to-point

Wessex area Point-to-Point season preview

Compiled by Brian Armstrong and Bob Bracher

THE 2013 WESSEX Area Point-To-Point Season kicks off on Sunday, January 6th with the Larkhill Racing Club fixture.

Twenty-three meetings are scheduled in Wessex, culminating in the Weston & Banwell's evening fixture on Wednesday, May 15th.

For a free colour leaflet detailing all the meetings in the Wessex area, send an SAE to Gill Armstrong, Pantiles, Penselwood, Wincanton, Somerset BA9 8NF.

Chloe Roddick made a flying start when Mahonia and Combehay won at Wadebridge on December 9th, while Richard Barber got off the mark with PPORC winner Glass'n A Half. Here are some other horses to look out for in 2013.

Devon/Somerset Border

KEITH and Janet Cumings' **Bishop's Nympton** (near South Molton) yard made a flying start when The Wealerdealer hacked up at Black Forest Lodge on 2 December.

Keith and Janet welcome back Flete and Holnicote winner Certain Flight, Kingston St Mary winner Gone That Way, Another Double Gin and One More Flame, a full-sister to retired stable stalwart Touch Of Flame. Four unraced and unnamed youngsters complete the yard.

Olivia Jackson will campaign three horses from home a few miles from Bishop's Nympton. Ooson and The Mamur Zapt miss 2013, but Olivia has retained Derek Lovell's The Accordionist, who was third at Buckfastleigh.

The newcomers are an unnamed four-year-old mare by Overbury and the interesting hunter chase candidate Restezen D'Armor, a three-time chase winner for Charlie Longsdon.

Somerset

FITZHEAD near Wiveliscombe trainer Gerald Greenway will race his daughter Linda and son-in-law Andrew Pugsley's Awesome George, who showed promise in two outings 12 months ago, and newcomer Justabout, who won five races under Rules for the Colin Tizzard stable.

Owner-trainers George and Debbie Beilby, from **Lawford** on the Quantocks, have retained Soggy Dollar and Constantius, who will appear later in the season. Carrickmines, who won eight races under Rules for the Richard Newland stable, is an interesting recruit.

Jenny Bult, based at **West Newton** near Taunton, will again race Lethal Dream, who will be partnered by reigning Wessex Area Champion Alice Mills.

Alice will also continue her association with Sally Hutchings' Tropical Secret, the winner of three races last season, and is looking forward to riding Canada Coombe for Sarah Gordon, who is based in the **Weston and Banwell** country.

Camilla Scott has 10 horses at **Brompton Regis** near Dulverton. Gone To Lunch has retired, Southwestern may appear occasionally and Special Account is racing successfully under Rules.

But Camilla welcomes back Feathered Friend, who won both completed outings in 2012, and Wadebridge winner Alright John, who has been bought by The Exmoor Partnership to replace Southwestern.

Larkhill winner Flying Phento, Soul Native and Lad From Highworth are interesting recruits. The string is completed by four unraced and unnamed maidens.

Neil Harris continues as stable jockey and he and his wife, Keri, are likely to saddle some four-year-olds from stables at the Scotts' farm.

Exford's Sharon Westwood, who has taken over the pointers from her daughter, Jess, sent out Degenerate to finish fourth at Black Forest Lodge on 2 December.

Sharon's stable is completed by Geton Xmoor, who finished fourth in a Newton Abbot bumper, Tizzy Blue, who may go hunter chasing and the ex-Ashley Farrant-trained Wadebridge runner-up Party Pictures.

Julie Pocock has four pointers at her **Stol-**

ford yard near Bridgwater. Julie welcomes back her grand campaigner Dandooley and Amber Love, who came right back to her best last season and may go hunter chasing.

The newcomers are unraced five-year-old geldings Crackacan by Karinga Bay and Highland Thistle by Kirkwall.

Charlotte Budd has three horses at her **Enmore** home near Bridgwater. Think On This, who returns after missing 2012, and the consistent Havenstone will go hunter chasing.

Nearly Midnight showed promise in three 2012 outings and should have little difficulty landing a maiden contest.

Alex Dunn has five horses at **West Buckland** including her prolific trio Picaroon, who refused to race at Wadebridge, Double Mead and Rainbow Tree.

Newcomers are Ruby Kew, who was fifth in her sole outing for licensed trainer Alan King, and the ex-David Pipe-trained dual hurdle race winner Arayan, who started favourite for the 2011 Imperial Cup at Sandown.

Saxton near Bridgwater first season trainers David Prichard and Becky Furber made a promising start when Andrew Lowrie's Volio Vincente finished third at Black Forest Lodge.

David and Becky have six or seven pointers and hunter chasers including Martys Mission, a gift horse from Andy Stewart and a possible novice riders' race ride for Becky, plus Larkhill winner Noble Aran and Our Jess for their landlord, Ray Barrow.

Bilbrook near Minehead owner-trainers Philip and Sarah Hobbs, who retired Saint Rumble after his fourth consecutive Minehead Harriers & West Somerset hunt race win, will race Supreme Duke, who ended Chesnut Annie's 20 point-to-point-winning sequence in his only outing between the flags to date.

North Petherton's Suzy Berry will again race the ultra-consistent Ha Ho Magregor and Cover Version, who got off the mark at Holnicote in May.

Sue Popham has four horses at her **Welling-ton** stables, including Carlos Gardel, a winner at Wadebridge last season.

Newcomers include Doncaster purchases Only The Best, who was second at Stratford in April, and Getaway Driver, who has been placed five times under Rules. Swansbrook, the winner of a bumper, hurdle race and chase under Rules, completes the team.

Jane Western has four horses at **Forde Abbey** near Chard. Jane has retained dual 2012 winner Benedictus, who will be aimed at hunter chases, and Last Minute Notice, who ran a promising race at Bratton Down in May.

Newcomers are Shootin The Breeze, a winner at Thurles in February 2012, and Gypsy Jack, the winner of two of his three points when trained by Richard Barber.

Shaakier and Stantway Surprise have retired, so Colin and Julie Bright of **Combe St Nicholas** near Chard will be represented by Irish bumper and hurdle race winner Some Slam, who was bought at Ascot in June out of Gary Moore's yard. Michael Legg will take the ride.

Chloe Roddick has a strong team at **Wellow** near Bath, including Wadebridge winners Mahonia (a likely candidate for the Aintree Fox-hunter), Combehay and Mike Sheppard's prolific Sericina, a runner-up at Wadebridge and likely to benefit from a recent wind operation.

Bonvilston winner Dear Villez, who will be suited to long distance hunter chases, also returns. Newcomers include Gordon Fox's Ascot purchase Young Jim, the winner of an Irish maiden, Fairytale Theatre, a half-sister to the prolific On The Bridge, and Stephen Kemble's unnamed three-year-old Kayf Tara filly, who is related to Becher Chase winner Mr Pointment.

Charles Whittaker has eight pointers to run from his yard at **Gare Hill** near Frome. Dual 2012 winner Pertinent, Starburst Diamond, Now Listen to Me, who was third in his single 2012 hunter chase outing, and Towcester hunter chase winner Pistolet Noir return.

Newcomers to the stable include Ruapehu, the winner of two Irish points last season and

in contention when the tack slipped at Barbury Castle, and the top-class Cheltenham Festival winner Taranis, who may be aimed at Larkhill's Coronation Gold Cup.

Rode near Frome trainer Sarah Hawker will campaign three or four horses this season. Lidjo De Rouge is joined by Solaise Express, who has been placed in two hurdle races for Sarah's husband Richard, and the interesting ex-Willie Mullins-trained Jayo, the winner of seven races in Ireland.

Angela Davis has taken out a permit, so her daughter Charlotte takes over the point-to-point yard at **Sutton Montis** near Sparkford.

Charlotte has retired Lutteur Bleu, who won the ex-racehorse class at Frome Show in September, but will race Champagne Rosie, who has twice finished fourth under Rules in owner John Meaden's well-known colours before putting in an excellent performance when third at Barbury Castle on December 9th.

Sarah Gould has four pointers at the family farm at **Cranmore** near Shepton Mallet. Sarah retains Special Occasion, who will be ridden by her sister, Lucy, while stalwart Own Line may return to contest the South & West Wilts hunt race.

Sarah recently launched Withy Wood Racing Club, an eight-strong group of family and local friends, who will be represented by Littlewindsor winner No Excuses and five-year-old newcomer Camp Kerala, who failed to finish in two Irish points last season.

Bruton owner-trainers Rose and Sam Loxton will race again Oslet, who landed a Bratton Down ladies' open before a superb success in a Stratford hunter chase in June.

Commander Vic has retired, so Frances Bishop will race former Haldon Gold Cup winner Pablo Du Charmil from her Wincanton home.

Stuart Penny, who enjoyed a splendid second season with 10 wins, begins 2012/13 from new stables at **Inwood**, near Henstridge. Stuart has retained Hazel Goody's three-time winner Quedillac and Who Else Knew, another three race winner last season.

The Dufosse family's Stalbridgeswansong - in the frame in all six outings last season - and 2012 winners Silver Monarch, Ashton Magic and Woodbridge Quest all return.

Newcomers include Manjam, the winner of two races under Rules, including a May Fontwell handicap hurdle, before being purchased at Ascot in June.

Marilyn Burrough plans to run four horses from her **Higher Halstock Leigh** near Yeovil base. Bratton Down winner Denise's Dip, On Oath and Standing Order are joined by Jam Tomorrow, a Sagacity gelding bought out of Donald McCain's stable in June 2012.

Henley near Crewkerne licensed trainer Bob Buckler will again race the consistent Different Trades, who was in the frame in each of his three 2011/12 outings.

Ryan Bliss, now also based at Henley, has six horses for the new season. Beady Eye, Michael Dare's Mishkaluch and Dunnick's Toffee return.

Newcomers are Jill Miller's Master Polo, an unraced gelding out of the high-class Miss O'Grady, an unraced mare for Fred Tucker and the interesting Rock Of Deauville, winner of two French flat races and sixth in Cheltenham's 2011 Fred Winter Hurdle when trained by Paul Nicholls.

Kate Nutt, who works for Ryan, is likely to ride Helen Barber's In The Circle in novice rider and ladies' races.

Chloe Newman has three horses at **Woolminstone** near Crewkerne. Chloe hopes to qualify Sobre Tresor for Exeter's Intermediate Final and also welcomes back Tikkeche, who was unplaced in three outings last season.

Robert and Janet Gibbs' Two Bob, a promising third in a 14-runner April 2011 Chepstow hurdle for the Philip Hobbs yard, is interesting. Chloe's brother-in-law Nick Taylor will saddle his dual 2011/12 winner Tres Bien. Josh Newman will again partner the family's runners.

Next - The Devon/Dorset border and Dorset.

Sponsorship boost for Colaton Raleigh FC

COLATON Raleigh Football club has received a financial boost from TalkTalk, Britain's value home phone and broadband provider.

The club will be sponsored by TalkTalk for the next 12 months.

The funding will be used to purchase new training equipment and also help with the running costs of the club in 2012.

Residents in Colaton Raleigh, Newton Poppleford and Otterton will also benefit from a £50,000 investment by TalkTalk, which is expanding its Next Generation Network to provide residents with access to fast, reliable broadband.

TalkTalk offers its unique network-level security service HomeSafe™, which can block access to websites about suicide, drugs, gambling and is free for all customers.

Colaton Raleigh Football Club welcomes anyone interested in getting involved in football, either as a player, coach or volunteer and offers a great way to get structured exercise, learn some new skills, make new friends and work as part of a team.

Riki Pitter, Manager at Colaton Raleigh Football Club said:

"We are very pleased that TalkTalk has chosen to support Colaton Raleigh Football Club over the next 12 months.

The donation will be used to buy some new training equipment and also help with the running costs which will make a huge difference to everyone belonging to the club".

Tristia Clarke, Commercial Director at TalkTalk says: "By investing in the exchange in Colaton Raleigh TalkTalk will be able to bring our great value offers to even more families in the area and give customers access to our fantastic security service HomeSafe™.

In this amazing Olympic year, TalkTalk is also delighted to be supporting sport at grassroots level up and down the country. "Colaton Raleigh Football Club is a fantastic example of a local club engaging and enthusing the next generation to enjoy sport.

"We wish them every success with future endeavours".

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Karting at Dunkeswell in good shape

THE 2012 season at the Dunkeswell Kart Club provided some of the closest and most competitive racing in the club's history with driving standards also improving throughout the year.

Looking back over the year, 931 drivers competed at the South West's premier circuit with numbers peaking at 121 for the July round.

If any circuit is bucking the national trend in entries, Dunkeswell is at the forefront of the revival - a flowing, super smooth track with close and competitive racing aligned with a friendly atmosphere has attracted drivers from all over the country.

The NKRA chose the circuit to host the prestigious Formula Blue championship and a tie up with Llandow Kart Club with the Dragon Challenge saw most of the silverware crossing the bridge back to the West Country!

Interestingly, weather wise, despite the tracks reputation, the dry weather out qualified the wet by 6 to 3 although when it rained it was biblical!

The Honda cadets provided some great action, the exuberance of youth and most importantly, big grids. Over the eight rounds, two drivers dominated the top of the standings - Ryan Luscombe and Jordan Hurman.

Luscombe's early championship lead was lost after the first round and he had to fight Hurman to get it back by round four.

After that, he maintained it to take the title by 18 points with Hurman second and Tom Canning in third. Hurman and

Luscombe also took the honours in the Dragon Challenge showing exceptional sportsmanship by electing to share the title rather than see who would win it on count back.

The Comer cadets was a small grid and in reality with Alex Quinn away on Super 1 duties, it was left to Tommy Foster and Kieran Channing, the only two club drivers to compete in all eight rounds to fight it out for the title.

Foster's experience showed through and he dominated the races that Quinn was absent from.

Foster took the title with Channing having an excellent season in second, despite only competing in four of the eight rounds, Quinn was third. Foster's year was capped by his victory in the Dragon Challenge. MiniMax and another Channing was on the hunt for a title!

Sam Stephens took an early lead in the standings but by round three Izaac Channing was topping the table and would hold it to take not only the class championship but also the South West Championship title on the way.

Stephens kept him honest all the way and it only by a margin of six points that he lost out coming second but was boosted by his winning the Dragon Challenge. David Spillers consistency got his third in his first full season.

Junior Max and Sam Morgan's early lead was cut short by round three when James Moorcroft dominated from then on. Liam Williams was putting in some good results and moved into second in the championship.

Moorcroft was the class of the field at the South West Championships when despite not finishing a heat still man-

aged to take the title (*Continued on page 30 inside*).

Williams' best efforts to hold second failed when he was nudged into third spot by Morgan who managed to accrue enough points in the last round after the dropped scores were taken into account.

Both Moorcroft and Morgan were successful in the Dragon Challenge after the stewards awarded them equal status as champions. James Clarkson was peerless in the Senior Max class leading from round one.

It was left to Stewart Baker and Tyler Weedon to battle it out for second and third. The youth of Weedon saw him gain the upper hand in the early rounds as Baker held a watching brief. By round seven, Baker's persistence and experience enabled him to pull out a four-point lead and move into second in the championship.

Out in front, Clarkson was putting points between him and the rest of the grid finishing 43 points ahead of Baker who in turn was 11 points clear of Weedon in third.

Fourth placed driver, Ashley Lewis, having his best season in Seniors so far, took the honours for the club in the Dragon Challenge.

It was brilliant to see a resurgence in the 177 class with grids topping 15 plus in most rounds. Defending champion Darren Lane had a slow start but by round three had got into his stride and was on top of the standings.

The hugely experienced Rob Knight, fended off Wayne Stone to take second in the championship with Stone some 69 points behind him in third place. But Stone could console



himself with his victory in the Dragon Challenge.

As with all racing, nothing would be possible without the tireless work of the circuit management group, especially circuit manager, Paul Bromham, the MSA officials, the medical teams and, of note, the marshalling team who have remained focused and professional whatever the conditions.

Special thanks must also go to the drivers and mechanics who have provided the swelling crowds of spectators with some close, competitive and most importantly safe racing and whose attendance have proven beyond doubt that Dunkeswell continues to be the place to race.

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